

BOOK REVIEW

WILL GILES. 2007. **Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants for Temperate Climates**. (ISBN 978-0881927856, hbk.). Timber Press, 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.timberpress.com, 1-800-827-5622, 1-503-227-3070 fax). \$49.95, 440 pp., 8 3/4" × 11 1/4".

The Victorian era and Victorians were captivated by the mysterious world of the exotic.

With their bold foliage, exuberant colors, and luscious scents, exotic plants ignited 19th century curiosity and thrilled Victorian senses. Fortunately for gardeners in the world's temperate regions, it's not necessary to live in the tropics nor own and operate a greenhouse to experience and enjoy growing exotic plants.

The *Encyclopedia of Exotic Plants for Temperate Climates* showcases a visually stunning array of exotic plants sure to delight gardeners who covet their dramatic effects and flamboyant beauty. Will Giles shows us how exotics can be persuaded to flourish in the unlikely places. He utilizes plants that are subtropical or tropical in appearance but that actually originate in cooler regions, as well as true tropics and subtropics that can flourish in temperate gardens.

More than 1500 species and cultivars are described in the encyclopedia, covering many plant groups, including aroids, bananas, ginger, bromeliads, cacti, yuccas, ferns, palms, and more. Detailed cultivation advice enables gardeners of all levels to make informed choices from the extensive plant list, and the information on geographic origins, microclimates, and recommended nurseries in the United Kingdom and North America enhances this comprehensive volume. Additional sources for further reading are interspersed throughout the text and collected in a bibliography. Electronic sources are supplied as well.

This book is richly illustrated with over 500 color photos. Most of the photos are larger than that required for identification. A good number are half-page size or larger. Their quality approaches an artistic level, one that has to be seen to be believed. Recommended for public libraries and research collections. It will appeal to all who enjoy some adventure in their gardening.

Will Giles, a lifelong exotic plants enthusiast, has created his own celebrated Exotic Garden in an unlikely location: England's east coast. Considered as the authority on growing exotic plants in temperate conditions, Will has appeared on a wide range of British television programs and contributes regularly to UK radio shows and magazines. Originally trained as an artist, he has worked as an illustrator for botanical books and is the author of *The New Exotic Garden* (2000).—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.